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CENTRAL INTEXLIGENCE GROUP

COUNTRY Palestine

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SUBJECT Mufti's Declarations on Palestine Situation

INFO.

DIST. 27 January 1947

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PAGES

ORIGIN

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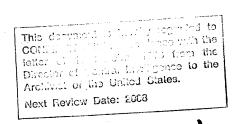
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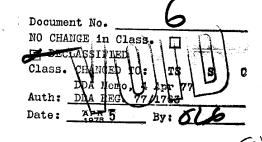
EVALUATION OF SOURCE

EVALUATION OF CONTENT

1. Afif Tibi, owner of al-Yaum newspaper in Beirut and former Nazi collaborator, is reported to have met the Grand Mufti in November. Tibi attributes the following statements to the Grand Mufti at that time:

- (a) The Arabs of Palestine will resort to arms and will attack the Jews, should the partition of Palestine be executed;
- (b) Under the circumstances, the status quo in Palestine, i.e. the continuation of the regime of the mandate, is infinitely better than any partition scheme. The Jews should not under any circumstances be allowed to assume real power in any section of the country, for the simple reason that they would immediately launch themselves on a program of armment, would attack neighboring land, and would face the Big Four Fowers with the accomplished fact of a very much larger Falestine:
- (c) The British are in continuous touch with the Mufti and are actually encouraging him to denounce partition;
- (d) The British are making it easy for the rabs to arm.
- 2. Tibi concluded his remarks by stating that he had "never seen the Mufti as pro-British" as when he made the above statements.





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